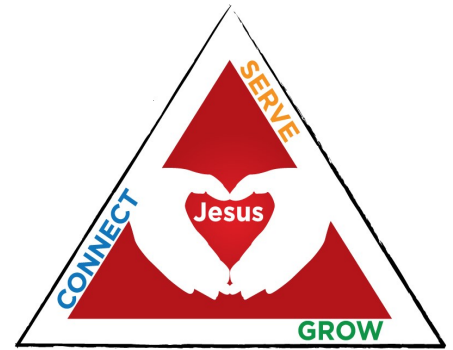




From the Hill

Fort Hill United Methodist Church
106 Oakridge Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Phone (434) 847-1251
Corner of Memorial and Oakridge Blvd.
Website: www.forthillumc.com



Volume 59, No.1

January, 2024

Biblical Resolutions for 2024

- H**old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
- E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- Y**earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- E**xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- A**im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- R**edeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols (adapted)

Welcome Your 2024 Church Leaders

Here is a listing of the church officers for 2024. Please support these leaders and feel free to contact them with any concerns you may have for their area:

Lay Leader	Peyton Haywood
Church Council Chair	William Saville
Finance Chair	Charley Jones
Staff-Parish Relations Chair	Susan Akers
Trustee Co-Chairs	Ed Fielding & Greg Meese
Treasurer	Ramona Davis
Assistant Treasurer	Jean Fielding
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Debra Martin

Ministry Team Leaders

JOY Team Chair	Meriel Wiley
Worship Chair	Sue Wright
Mission Chair	Bonnie Kiger-Doney

We are thankful for these members for stepping forward to lead us in 2024.



One of the books I co-authored with Kathy Merry and John Briggs is entitled *"Does Your Church Have a Prayer? In Mission Toward the Promised Land."* This book is based on the understanding that there are three foundational principles that define a church's ministry:

Faithful Remembering - Recalling how the biblical story of God's faithfulness was fulfilled in the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Faithful Equipping – Helping a congregation to live the biblical story of God's faithfulness as fulfilled in the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Faithful Encouraging - Inspiring a congregation to shape its present ministry through the story of God's faithfulness as fulfilled in the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

It is the premise of this book that the observance of these principles can guide a congregation into the reality for which Jesus prayed in the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John - the reality of being Jesus' followers sent into the world to share God's love.

As we begin a new year of faith at Fort Hill, it is my prayer that God will empower our congregation to excel in these areas of faithfulness as we live Jesus' prayer. As the pastor of this blessed congregation, it is my daily prayer that our community of faith will:

Remember the biblical story of God's faithfulness as we participate through our faithful presence in weekly worship

Equip each other to be disciples of Jesus as we participate through our faithful presence in weekly Sunday School classes

Encourage each other to live as Jesus' followers who are sent into the world through our mission and ministry together

May God's blessings be with Fort Hill as we faithfully remember, equip, and encourage each other to live Jesus' prayer in 2024.

-Marc

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

We are now listing our ongoing prayer concerns for those who are in nursing or rehab facilities or recovering at home. Only immediate prayer concerns will be listed in the weekly bulletin. Our current prayer concerns are as follows:

Runk & Pratt (Leesville Road)

Dodie Fauber

Bentley Commons

Frances White

Heritage Green

Doris Conner

Jean Poindexter

Others who need our prayers:

Abby Englund

Bryan & Lisa Garra

Judy Hall

Andrew Jenks

Mary Murphy

Becky Spangler

Kendra Toney

Phyllis Williams

Frances Wilkinson

Greg Vincent

NOTICE: If you know of a member, or a friend of the church, who is hospitalized, please let the church office know. The hospitals DO NOT call the church. Thank you!

January Communion Offering to Benefit Lynchburg Daily Bread

You can help Fort Hill UMC support LDB by giving generously to the communion offering on January 1. One half of that offering will be given to LDB. Much good food that is not used at feeding events at FHUMC is carried to LDB. The receivers are very gracious and appreciate all food that is brought there. The other half of the communion offering will be given to Inter-faith Outreach Association to help those who need assistance with rent, utilities, etc. Thank you for your generous gifts!



Bits and Pieces

2024 Flower Chart Available



Altar Flowers

If you are looking for a way to honor or remember someone, you might want to consider placing flowers on the altar some Sunday. To do so, you can check the new Flower Chart in the office hallway, beside the water fountain. You

have two options to choose from:

1. The two brass urn arrangements for \$93 total
OR
2. An arrangement for the altar table for \$53.00

Just sign your name beside the date that you want, and put a "T" or an "U" beside your name to indicate which size arrangement you want. Place your check for \$70 or \$40 in one of the special envelopes provided at the chart, along with the wording that you wish to be in the bulletin, and put the envelope in the collection plate or bring to the church office.

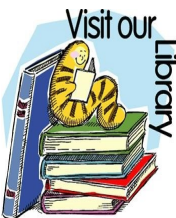
If you wish a certain color or particular type of flower, just let the church office know, and it will be taken care of.

Sign up early to get the date(s) you want as the chart usually fills up quickly.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to security and safety concerns on Sunday mornings, the office door for the Oakridge Boulevard entrance will be locked, the door for the Wilson Street entrance will be unlocked from 9:00 – 9:15 a.m., and the Sanctuary doors will be unlocked at 8:15 a.m.

From Our Librarian

Your church library has been busy this year! We now have 1,241 volumes in our collection and several areas have received your attention. Two of the most popular areas seem to be Christian life and Bible study. I would like to mention three authors who have written quite a number of books in these sections: Warren W. Wiersby and his "Be..." series (Be Alive, Be Ready, etc.), James W. Moore, and Max Lucado. Of course, there are a number of other authors available for your choosing. One notable addition to the collection this year is a rare volume, "The Life of Martin Luther," by Julius Catlin, printed in 1853. Thanks to all of our donors and thank you all for using the library.



UMW Circle Meeting Dates

Martha Circle - January 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the church Conference Room

Genesis Circle - January 2, at 7:00 p.m. in Oxford Hall.

The program for January will be the annual Pledge to Missions.

If you are not a member of the UMW, you are invited to visit one of the circles at any time.

UWF Reading Program Continues

For January, we will be reading *One The Come Up* by Angie Thomas.

About the Book from Goodreads:

Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. As the daughter of an underground rap legend who died before he hit big, Bri's got big shoes to fill. But now that her mom has unexpectedly lost her job, food banks and shutoff notices are as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it - she has to make it.

On the Come Up is Angie Thomas's homage to hip-hop, the art that sparked her passion for storytelling and continues to inspire her to this day. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; of the struggle to become who you are and not who everyone expects you to be; and of the desperate realities of poor and working-class black families.

The following is a list of books for the rest of this reading program year:

February	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> by Kim Michele Richardson	
March	<i>The New American</i>	by Micheline Marcom
April	<i>A Knock at Midnight</i>	by Brittany Barnett
May	<i>Stamped</i>	by Jason Reynolds
June	<i>I'm Still Here</i>	by Austin Brown

More Bits and Pieces

Fort Hill Continues It's Support of Perrymont Elementary School

The following are some notes from the Perrymont Elementary School Staff regarding the gifts we provided to them:

"Thank You and your team for Always providing various items/treats to us, throughout the year. The level of care shown makes it easier to be a Beacon of Light to others. Again, Thank You all for ALL you do, it is much appreciated...have a Wonderful day!"

"Thank you all so much for your generosity! We love you!"

"Thank you for the continued partnership and support you and Fort Hill United Methodist Church have provided the staff, students and families of Perrymont Elementary!"

"On behalf of me and my custodial staff I would like to thank you for the cookie mix and the kitchen towel. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

"I just wanted to say thank you to you and your church family for always being so generous to our Perrymont staff. I am new to PES this year and I so appreciate the kind gestures and gifts throughout the year. You all are a blessing and we are so thankful for you. Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you so much for your dedication to volunteering and making us all feel so very special! Please give the members of your church a huge THANK you for all they do to show Christ's love!"

"Thank you and the other church members for the festive holiday gift. It was a welcome surprise, and I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. The PES family sincerely values our relationship with the church and its members as well as the multiple ways in which you all support us and our school. Again, thank you for your love, prayers, and support."

"Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to the teachers at Perrymont. It really brightens our day and makes us feel special. I hope you and the church family have a Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you so much for the Holiday gifts that were given to each staff member at Perrymont. We want to **THANK YOU** so much for all that you all do for us."

"We loved our gifts today! Seeing them in our mailboxes made us smile!"

Resupply Drive – during January, we are helping to replenish the following supplies. If you are able to help, please place in the Perrymont box in the Welcome Center.

Tissues
Hand Sanitizer
Gallon-size Ziploc Bags

Clorox Wipes
Glue Sticks

Expo Markers
Scissors

Thank you to members of the Congregation that contribute financially or through donations of supplies/ clothing or time to Perrymont.

Please continue to pray for the Staff and Students.

-Kim Beuerle, Perrymont/Church Contact Person, 434-237-4598



January Birthdays

Page 5

1/2 Rhonda Nunnally	1/11 Jo Griffin	1/19 Darlene Marsh	1/26 JoAnn Mays
1/2 Bunny Marks	1/11 Frances White	1/19 Mark Anthony, V	1/26 Bill Cash
1/3 Michael Hester	1/11 Vickie Watkins	1/19 Brandon Thompson	1/27 Susan Kiger
1/3 Madison Wiley	1/14 Judy Duncan	1/20 Carl Adams	1/27 Sallie Blanks
1/4 Kim Sisson	1/14 Lydia Ledin	1/20 Michael Gibson	1/29 Nancy Marsh
1/5 Robin Poindexter	1/15 Lisa Stone	1/21 Jett Hamilton	1/29 Sarah Housley
1/5 Amy Huskin	1/17 Monique Bell	1/22 Kelly Huber Hann	1/29 Joe Cannon
1/6 Danna Whorton	1/17 Hannah Roark	1/23 Judy Robertson	1/29 Katlyn Adams
1/7 Don Baker	1/18 Ronnie Fisher	1/25 Vicki Ryan	1/30 Matthew Bingham
1/7 Catherine Martin			

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, it may be because we do not have the date in our data base. Please call the church office at 847-1251 with your information.

January Wedding Anniversaries

1/25 Wendell & Diane Thompson

49 years



The staff wishes to thank the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and the congregation, for our year-end bonus. It is a privilege and joy to serve God, and to be in ministry with the Fort Hill congregation. We look with anticipation to what God's plans are for all of us in 2024..

The Fort Hill United Methodist Women thank you for your generous support of their efforts to raise funds for Miriam's House and household items for families starting a new home. The value of the many, many useful items as well as the monetary gifts, was estimated to be over \$1,000. These items, along with a check, were delivered to Miriam's House just before Christmas, and they were so appreciative of your generosity.

Did You Make a New Year's Resolution?

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!



45th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Stephanie

Drinkard and Jeff Molon who were married on Saturday, December 16, 2023 in Portsmouth, VA. Stephanie is the daughter of David and Linda Drinkard. Also, Stephanie and Jeff were married on David and Linda's

We extend our sympathy to the family of Harry H. Hill, Jr. (Mike) upon his death on November 17; and to Marikay Litaker upon the death of her husband, John Litaker, on November 22.

Next Lunch Out Date Set

Did you attend the Lunch Out date in November? If you didn't, you missed enjoying good food and fellowship with your church family.

The next Lunch Out date is Sunday, January 14, immediately after the worship service. Everyone that wants to join in, plan to meet at Bentley's on Bedford, 2302 Bedford Avenue. You do not have to make a reservation - just come! Questions? Please call Patty Marsh at 434-841-0189.

Next Mix & Mingle

Tuesday, January 16

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

4th floor (elevator accessible)

Bring a snack to share

Note: Beginning September 1, 2023, Fort Hill UMC began accepting online contributions through our website. You can also make contributions by going to <https://abundant.com/forthillunitedmethod>

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <div>Church Office Closed</div>	2 7:00 Genesis Circle	3 2:00 Martha Circle 7:00 Celebration Ringers	4 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8	9	10 7:00 Celebration Ringers	11 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	12	13
14 12:00 Lunch Out at Bentley's	15 10:30 Outreach Committee	16 1-3 Mix & Mingle	17 7:00 Celebration Ringers	18 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	19	20
21	22	23	24 7:00 Celebration Ringers	25 5:45 Brass Ensemble 6:45 Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	26	27
28 11:45 Genesis Circle Fundrais- er lunch	29	30	31 10 - 4 Prepare meal for Park View 7:00 Celebration Ringers	<div> In-Person Worship Each Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Java Stop 8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Staffed Nursery Available 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. </div>		

Miscellaneous

THE BOX SCORE

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

Average worship attendance in 2022 - 114

Average worship attendance as of December 24, 2023 - 122

NOTE: This attendance is for in-person & online worship beginning January 1, 2023

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse . . . And put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10

BRIEF OPERATING FUND REPORT

Your first line of giving — mission and ministry!

Budget for 2023 as approved by the Church

Council is: \$401,311

We need an average of \$7,717.52 per week to meet this budget.

As of 52 weeks, our weekly receipts have averaged \$6,071.86

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of your church!

From the Hill

is a publication of Fort Hill United Methodist Church,
106 Oakridge Boulevard, Lynchburg, VA 24502-1308
Phone: 434-847-1251 Fax: 434-847-2536

Times of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Staffed nursery provided from 9:15 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

Rev. Marc D. Brown, Pastor
marcbrown@forthillumc.com
Brown5129@verizon.net

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins, Minister of Visitation
tuned2joy02@gmail.com

Jacob Dishman, Director of Music & Communications
jacob.dishman@gmail.com

Jeanette Seale, Administrative Assistant
secretary@forthillumc.com

Rev. Denise Bates, District Superintendent
Phone: 434-832-0401

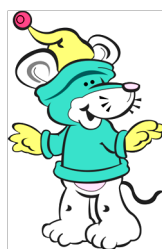
The Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop, Richmond, VA
Phone: 1-800-768-6040

*"Fort Hill United Methodist Church seeks to nurture
God's people so they can
CONNECT, GROW and SERVE."*

-Fort Hill UMC Vision Statement

A Word From Amos . . .

Happy New Year, my Fort Hill friends! This is Amos, your friendly church mouse, reporting in again! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays as much as I did. I must confess that I am a little more robust around my waistline than I was a month ago. I ate and ate and ate! My family has a lot of good cooks, and I just couldn't resist sampling all the goodies! How about you? You probably have more will power to resist such temptations than I do.



I don't have a lot to report on this time, but I must say how much I have enjoyed the beautiful decorations and music here at Fort Hill throughout all the month of December. And speaking of music . . . Were you present for the worship service on December 10 when the choir presented it's annual Lessons & Carols service? Wow! Double wow! The instrumentalists, the choir, the soloists were just superb! And to think that our own Director of Music, Jacob, wrote the entire thing! I was so moved by it all, and many others were too. That is one service I will never forget! Also, I have loved hearing all the laughter and merry wishes among the members. It just filled my heart with such joy! But without the birth of Jesus to celebrate, there probably wouldn't be much joy in any of us. What a marvelous gift we have been given - a gift that we can never fully repay, but a free gift for all to enjoy. I am going to try and carry that thought with me throughout 2024.

Until next month, I hope you will stay warm and healthy.

-Amos

Where Is Your Card?

In mid-November, we mailed a 2024 Ministry Support Card and letter to Fort Hill members and friends. We are thankful for the cards that have been returned. If you have not returned your card, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have misplaced your card, and wish to have a replacement, please call the church office at 434-847-1251. Your support of the ministries of Fort Hill UMC is important, and we hope you will let us know that you wish to be a part of the church's ministry. Remember, this card is not binding, can be changed at any time, and is only a tool we use to help plan programs throughout the year. Thank you for your support!



Fort Hill United Methodist Church
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Address Service Requested

Phone: 434-847-1251
Fax: 434-847-2536

www.forthillumc.com



Rev. Marc D. Brown
Pastor

Rev. Janet D. Hawkins
Minister of Visitation

Jacob Dishman
Director of Music & Communications

Rev. Jonathan Park
Missionary in Southeast Asia

Worship Time:
9:00 a.m. Online Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary

Next newsletter deadline
is **JANUARY 15**. Please
submit **SHORT** articles by
this date.
Thank you!



Year End Giving Statements to be Mailed in January

Giving statements for 2023 will be mailed the first week in January. Please review your statement immediately, and if errors are found, notify the Financial Secretary before January 15, when the 2023 books will be closed. Corrections cannot be made after that date. Also, please keep this final statement for tax purposes. Thank you!

Year-End Treasurer's Reports Due

All Sunday School class treasurers, as well as treasurers of various church groups, need to submit a report of all their financial activity for 2022 to the church office. This report is due by February 1. **Please have someone audit your report and sign it, along with your signature.**



If you have any questions about this, or need assistance on how to write your report, please contact Jeanette at 847-1251, ext. 201.